

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 remain in the application.

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The office action dated April 23, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 7, 11, 14, 17-33, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the related art disclosed in the patent application in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,344,883 to Yamada (hereinafter “Yamada”). Claims 6, 8-10, 34, and 36-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the related art disclosed in the patent application in view of Yamada and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,061,117 to Horie (hereinafter “Horie”).

The rejection of claims 1, 12, 13, 15, and 16 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1, 12, 13, 15, and 16 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a dielectric frame in a region other than a region where said pixel electrode is formed”. None of the cited references including the related art and Yamada, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. For example, in Yamada as shown in FIGs.10A-10D, a convex portion 36 corresponding to the dielectric frame of the current invention is formed on a transparent electrode 31 corresponding to the pixel electrode. This is directly contrary to the element cited above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 12, 13, 15, and 16 and claims 2-11, 14, and 17-29, which depend from claim 1, are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claim 30 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claim 30 is allowable over the cited references in that this claim recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a dielectric frame surrounding said pixel region”. None of the cited references including the related art and Yamada, singly or in combination, teaches or

suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. For example, in Yamada as shown in FIGs.10A-10D, a pixel region is defined by a convex portion region and not by a gate bus lines and data bus lines as in the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 30 and claims 31-38, which depend from claim 30, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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